[*English*]

Land under Jute and Mesta Cultivation

5769. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area under jute and mesta cultivation has gradually decreased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check such decline in area of jute and mesta cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Area under jute and Mesta during the last 10 years i.e. 1982-83 to 1991-92 has been established around 10.5 lakh hectares with marginal fluctuations from year to year, depending upon the rainfall and whether conditions. On long term time trend basis i.e. 1967-68 to 1990-91 the growth rate of area under jute and mesta was observed as (-) 0.01 per cent per annum showing only marginal decrease in area.

(c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP), initiated in 1987-88, is being implemented in 50 selected districts of 8 major jute/mesta growing States of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Assam, Tripura Meghalaya, Utter Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Financial Assistance to SC/ST Entrepreneurs by NSFDC

5770. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the Critaria for providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs by the National Scheduled Castes and Tribes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC);

(b) the allocation proposed to be made by the NSFDC for small/medium/major projects during Eighth Plan, project-wise;

(c) whether any International financial institutions such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc. have also been approached by the Union Government to finance NSFDC; and

(d) if so, the details there of and the reaction of these institutions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a). The critaria prescribed by National scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) for providing financial assistance to the SC/ST entrepreneurs are given below:-

i) The annual family income of the benificiary should not exceed twice the poverty line.

ii) The scheme must be technically feasible and economically viable and capable of generating adequate income on sustained basis.

(b) Allocations for Eighth Plan have not yet been finalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

World Bank Aid to Haryana

5771. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: